

Electronic Portfolios: Digital Stories of Lifelong and Life Wide Learning

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Themes

- **Context**
– 21st Century Learning
- **Product**
– Digital Archive for Life
- **Process**
– Portfolios and Reflection
– Digital Storytelling
- **Examples**

Context

Why
Electronic Portfolios
Now?

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>



The
Partnership
for 21st
Century
Skills



6 Key Elements of 21st Century Learning

1. Emphasize core subjects
2. Emphasize learning skills
3. Use 21st century tools to develop learning skills
4. Teach and learn in a 21st century context
5. Teach and learn 21st century content
6. Use 21st century assessments that measure 21st century skills

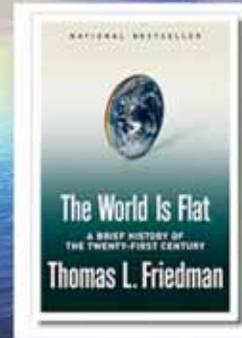
Partnership for 21st Century Skills
<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

21st Century Learning Skills

- Information and Media Literacy Skills
- Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking and Systems Thinking
- Problem Identification, Formulation and Solution
- Creativity and Intellectual Curiosity
- Interpersonal and Collaborative Skills
- Self-Direction
- Accountability and Adaptability
- Social Responsibility

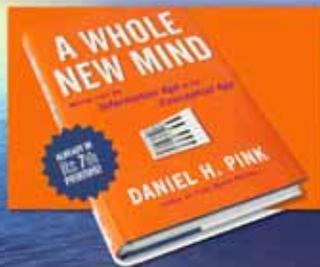
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The World in Flat



- Thomas Friedman, New York Times Columnist
- A look at the change and **globalization** since Y2K

A Whole New Mind



- Daniel Pink
- Balancing Right-Brain skills for the "Conceptual Age" with Left-Brain skills from the "Information Age"

6 Essential High-Concept, High Touch Aptitudes

Dan Pink, *A Whole New Mind*

1. **Design** (not just function) - create objects beautiful, whimsical, emotionally engaging
2. **Story** (not just argument) - the ability to fashion a compelling narrative
3. **Symphony** (not just focus) - synthesis--seeing the big picture
4. **Empathy** (not just logic) - forge relationships - care for others
5. **Play** (not just seriousness) - laughter, lightheartedness, games, humor
6. **Meaning** (not just accumulation) - purpose, transcendence, and spiritual fulfillment.

Product

Electronic

Portfolios
(Technology Matures)

ePortfolio Technology over Time

Storage

- 1991: Desktop
- 1995: CD-R
- 2000: Internet
- 2005: DVD-R
- 2006: **Pocket Tech** (PDAs, Flash drives, Phones, iPods)
- What's Next?

Software

- Common tools
 - Office & PDF
 - HTML Editors
- Customized Systems
 - Online data bases
 - Work Flow Management
 - Assessment Management
- Interoperability (currently in "silos")

Levels of ePortfolio Implementation

- **Working Portfolio**
 - The Repository
 - The Digital Archive
 - The Artifacts (meta-tagged)
 - Personal Information
 - Reflective Journal
- **Presentation Portfolio(s)**
 - The “Story” or Narrative
 - Multiple Views (public/private)
 - Varied Audiences (permissions)
 - Varied Purposes

A question to ponder

- What could happen if every citizen was issued personal web server space that they would own for a lifetime?

Educause Quarterly 2004

- “Beyond the Electronic Portfolio: A Lifetime Personal Web Space” [LPWS]
 - Ellen R. Cohn and Bernard J. Hibbitts (University of Pittsburg)
- “Rather than limit people to the e-portfolio model, why not develop a model providing a personal Web space for everyone, for their lifetimes and beyond?”

MEMEX

- “A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory.”
 - Vannevar Bush (1945) “As We May Think”

LPWS

- organized more like our brains than our file cabinets
- available anywhere, any time
- universally accessible to everyone, any ability, even the homeless
- can survive as an historical record of a person's body of work

Cohn & Hibbitts (2004)

Benefits of LPWS

- Educational Continuity: Less Knowledge Left Behind
- A Convenient One-Stop Shop
 - Structured according to the user's unique concept map and learning style, not by predetermined institutional or commercial templates
 - Crosses institution & sector boundaries
- Community-Building
 - link individuals to larger communities (e.g. ELGG, Facebook)

Cohn & Hibbitts (2004)

Digital Archive for Life (DAL)

- space to store raw materials for e-portfolios
- archives of family records, genealogy and digital stories, autobiographies, child development data
- evidence of personal and professional accomplishments, and all kinds of personal information
- Personal archive/content management system

Memories Lost

- Physical/Analog Documents
 - Hurricane Katrina
 - Floods, Earthquakes, Fire
- Virtual/Digital Documents
 - Pervasive use of digital cameras
 - Massive hard drive crash
 - a “hole in history”
- Ourmedia.org & archiving Internet

Process

Electronic Portfolios

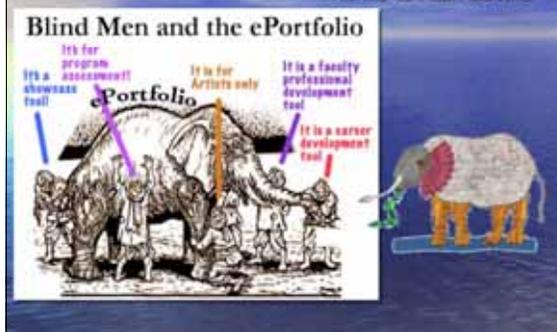
Portfolio Processes

Traditional + Technology

- Collecting
- Archiving
- Selecting
- Linking/Thinking
- Reflecting
- Storytelling
- Directing
- Collaborating
- Celebrating
- Publishing

“The Blind Men and the Elephant”

Thanks to Alan Levine



Purpose & Goals for the portfolio (Determine Content)

- Multiple purposes:
 - Learning/Process
 - Assessment
 - Marketing/Showcase

Learning Portfolios

- *"know thyself" = a lifetime of investigation*
- *self-knowledge as outcome of learning*

The Learning Portfolio
(Zubizarreta, 2004, p.20)

Purposes for Assessment

Assessment OF Learning = Summative Assessment	Assessment FOR Learning = Formative (Classroom-based) Assessment
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www.qca.org.uk
ages3-14

Research-based principles of assessment for learning to guide classroom practice

Assessment for Learning

Principles of Assessment FOR Learning

- **Definition:** Assessment for Learning is the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where the learners are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there.

Crucial Distinction

- **Assessment OF Learning**
How much have students learned as of a particular point in time?
- **Assessment FOR Learning**
How can we use assessment to help students learn more?

Rick Stiggins
Assessment Training Institute

What is your portfolio philosophy?

- A standardized **checklist** of skills? (Positivist)
- or
- A reflective **story** of deep learning? (Constructivist)

Reflection

The "Heart and Soul" of a Portfolio

Portfolio tells a Story

"A portfolio tells a story. It is the story of knowing. Knowing about things... Knowing oneself... Knowing an audience... Portfolios are students' own stories of what they know, why they believe they know it, and why others should be of the same opinion."
(Paulson & Paulson, 1991, p.2)

- ### Helping Students Tell Their Stories
- **COLLECT** more than text documents
 - Pictures
 - Audio
 - Video
 - Focus on **REFLECTION** over time
 - Help students make **CONNECTIONS**
 - Support multimedia presentation formats

Digital Tools for Reflection

Digital Storytelling and Engagement

Linked to...



- **Online Portfolios**
- **Digital Storytelling**
- **Blogs & Wikis**
- **Games**

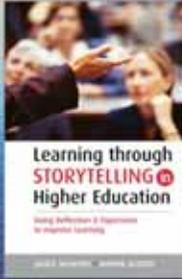
- ### How can you leverage the technologies students own?
- Accessibility from home computers
 - Connectivity with cell phones & PDAs (digital images, reflections)
 - Video storage (iPod) or streaming video
 - **Podcasting** = audio-only digital stories and blogs

Digital Storytelling Process

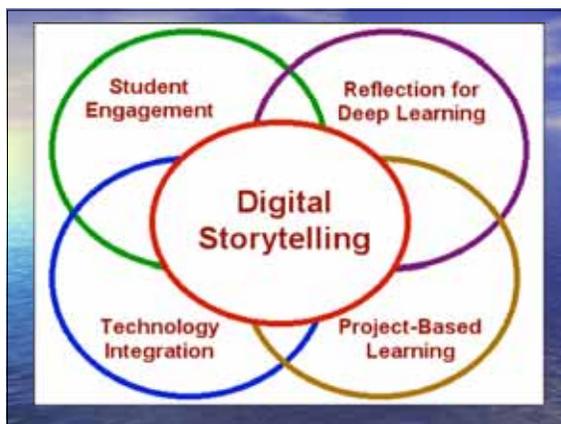
- Learners create a 2-4 minute digital video clip
 - First person narrative [begins with a written script ~ 400 words]
 - Told in their own voice [record script]
 - Illustrated (mostly) by still images
 - Music track to add emotional tone

Assignment
8th grade

Storytelling as a Theory of Learning



- Two educators from New Zealand - staff developer and health educator
- Relates storytelling to literature on learning and reflection
- Provides stages of storytelling related to reflection



Digital Storytelling
is BOTH...
HIGH TECH
and
HIGH TOUCH

Digital stories

- Victoria's story
- Student Teacher story
- My story

Voice = Authenticity

- multimedia expands the "voice" in an electronic portfolio (both literally and rhetorically)
- personality of the author is evident
- gives the reflections a uniqueness

Digital Stories and e-Portfolios

- highly motivating project-based learning activity
- powerful artifacts in electronic portfolios
- Importance of reflection in e-portfolios
- Tools for scaffolding reflection: blogging and digital storytelling
- Storytelling: reflection on experience to improve learning (McDrury & Alterio)
- the role of reflection in brain-based learning (Zull)

Purposes of Digital Stories in ePortfolios

- Introduction
 - Voice & Personality
- Reflection
- Transition
- Benchmarking Development
- Memoir
- Biography
- Legacy
- Collaboration
- Decision
- Documentary

The REFLECT Initiative

reflect@taskstream.com

<http://electronicportfolios.org/reflect/>

A research project to assess the impact of electronic portfolios on student learning, motivation and engagement in secondary schools

Researching
Electronic
portfolios
Learning
Engagement
Collaboration
Technology

The Vision of REFLECT

To provide the teachers with the training and the students with the tools:

- To tell their **stories** with **pride!**
- To put **heart** and **soul** and **voice** into their portfolios!

My Final Wish...

May all your **electronic portfolios** become dynamic **celebrations** and **stories of deep learning** across the lifespan.

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